



Maricopa County

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

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MCACC PROVIDES SUBSIDIZED SPAY/NEUTER FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

NEW PROGRAM WILL REACH THOUSANDS OF COUNTY RESIDENTS THROUGH PRIVATE VETS

Phoenix, March 29, 2006 - Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) is launching a new subsidized spay/neuter program for needy County residents. Funded by a grant from the Friends of Animal Care & Control (FACCS), the program will provide thousands of free spay/neuter surgeries with applicants paying only for a license and a discounted rabies vaccination. The procedures will be performed at private veterinarian offices throughout the valley.

"Pet overpopulation is a real concern for Maricopa County. Last year, MCACC cared for 55,000 unwanted pets. County residents can reduce the number of unwanted pets by getting their dogs and cats spayed or neutered," says Dr. Rodrigo Silva, MCACC Director. He adds, "Our new program will provide responsible pet owners increased access to this service."

MCACC's Subsidized Spay Neuter Voucher Program will fall under the organization's Big Fix umbrella, which also includes quarterly, free Spay/Neuter Days and a mobile spay/neuter unit called the "Neuter Scooter" - also targeting needy families.

Aside from reducing pet overpopulation, spay/neuter surgery helps prevent behavior problems in dogs and cats from spraying and marking their territory, yowling and roaming. The procedure will also eliminate heat cycles.

To qualify for the voucher program, County residents must demonstrate that they are receiving public assistance such as Food Stamps, Unemployment, VA Disability or otherwise be in crisis. Applications will be available at MCACC offices, on-line at pets.maricopa.gov and through other animal welfare partners.

Applicants will pay a small co-pay, \$27 per dog and \$15 per cat. The fee will cover a rabies vaccination and license with the spay/neuter surgery provided at no cost to the applicant.